

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3-19, 21, 26, 27 and 33 are active in the case.

Step d) of Claim 26 has been amended to recite positively the supplying of heat by a supplementary thermal support unit situated between the two reaction zones, the heat being supplied by using the heat which develops due to the further oxidation of the solid with air. This limitation is incorporated from canceled Claim 29. Claims 3-6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 18 and 26 have been amended to place them in more readable form and in the case of Claim 26 to replace the term "reducing" with the term "reduced" to comply with the Examiner's requirement for antecedent basis. No new matter has been added into the amended claims.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 13-17.

The rejection of Claims 3-12, 18-21, 23, 24 and 26-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Werth '270 in view of Cole is traversed.

Claim 26, as amended, now specifies that heat is positively supplied by use of a supplementary thermal support unit situated between the two reaction zones, the heat being supplied by using the heat which develops due to the further oxidation of the solid with air. This limitation is not taught or suggested in either of the Werth or Cole references or in the combination of the references. Further, the process of the present claims results in the contemporaneous and separate production of hydrogen and carbon dioxide, while neither Werth nor Cole teach or suggest the contemporaneous and separate production of hydrogen and carbon dioxide. For instance, Werth in col. 8, lines 26-42 teaches the removal of oxidized metal from the fuel cell to a central plant or a smaller reformer unit at a refueling station for reduction of the metal oxide back to metal. This procedure is not necessary in the process of the present claims. The contemporaneous and separate production of hydrogen and carbon dioxide of the present claims results from step d) of present Claim 26, which

recites positively that heat is supplied by use of a supplementary thermal support unit situated between the two reaction zones, the heat being supplied by using the heat which develops due to the further oxidation of the solid with air. Neither Werth or Cole teach or suggest supplying heat by the use of the supplementary thermal support unit of step d) of amended Claim 26 in which the heat is supplied by using the heat which develops due to further oxidation of a solid with air.

Further, Werth discloses at column 8, lines 11-15 that the vent gas from the reaction between iron oxide and reformat does not only produce a mixture of water and carbon dioxide, but also unreacted hydrogen and unreacted carbon monoxide. Therefore, Werth produces a stream containing carbon dioxide, water, carbon monoxide and hydrogen. It is clear that the recovery of carbon dioxide from the above mixture of materials can only occur through an expensive separation step. However, according to the process of the present claims a stream is obtained which contains substantially only carbon dioxide and water and carbon dioxide alone can be easily separated from the water in the stream. Therefore, the claims distinguish over the combination of references.

It is submitted that Claims 3-19, 21, 26, 27 and 33 are allowable and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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